Child Development Services structure. Some States have also launched specific schemes to raise the status of the girl child.

Steps Taken to Raise the Standard of University Education

3996. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to enhance the standard of University education;

(b) whether the UGC has made any study in this regard;

(c) if so, what are its suggestions; and

(d) the steps taken, if any against any University for decline in the standard of education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) In pursuance of National Policy of Education (NPE)-86, the Government and University Grants Commission (UGC) have taken several initiatives to improve the standard of education in institutions of higher learning. Some of the major steps taken in this regard are:

Revision of pay scales of college and University teachers with effect from 1.1.1986. Opportunities provided for training and career advancement for teachers. All-India Eligibility Test introduced to attract best talent to the teaching profession.

Academic staff colleges established for re-orientation of newly appointed university and college Teachers.

27 Curriculum Development Centres in Sciences and Humanities established to modernise curricula. Model curricula has been prepared for 27 disciplines in undergraduate and post-graduate courses.

Financial assistance provided by UGC for improvement in teaching and research under Special Assistance Programmes, like Centres of Advanced Study (CAS), College Science Improvement Programmes (COSIP), Strengthening of Infrastructure in Science and Technology (COSIST), etc.

Inter-University Centres established by UGC to provide front-line facilities and services for advancement of research in the University system.

Higher priority given to grant of autonomy to selected Colleges and University Departments.

Guidelines for implementation of an Academic Calendar circulated. These guidelines emphasize observance of at least 180 teaching days by Universities/Colleges.

Regulations for minimum standards for the award of first degree, minimum working days etc. notified by UGC.

Blackmarketing of DMS Milk in R.K. Puram

3997. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take stringent action to stop blackmarketing of DMS milk being openly carried out in R.K. Puram with active connivance of the Area's Field Officer;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken to check this corrupt practice;

(c) whether Government are aware that the milk booths in the said area have been rented to people unauthorisedly; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Delhi Milk Scheme is conducting surprise inspections and other checks to prevent any blackmarketing of its milk. Such inspections and raids have been conducted in R.K. Puram also.

(c) and (d) No milk booth in the R.K. Puram area has been unauthorised rented out.

Rise in freight charges of essential commodities

3998. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have raised the freight charges for essential commodities, despite Government's assurance that these commodities have been exempted from the freight charges;

(b) if so, the percentage of rise in the freight charges on such commodities;

(c) the reasons for raising the freight charges; and

(d) its likely impact on the overall rise in the cost of the essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The following essential commodities have been exempted from the increase of 10 percent in freight rates during the current year: (i) Grains & Pulses for public distribution system, (ii) Salt for human consumption, (iii) Edible oils, (iv) Hydrogenated oils, (v) Vegetable oil refined, (vi) Sugar (vii) Fruits & Vegetables, (viii) Gur, Shakhar & Jaggery, (ix) Chemical manures, (x) Organic manure, (xi) Fodder other than oil cakes, (xii) Oil seeds, (xiii) Kerosene, (xiv) LPG and (xv) Livestock.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Quality of the physical and academic infrastructure

3999. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government feel that the quality of the physical and academic infrastructure of higher education is important for its teaching, research and service functions as well as for the institutional culture; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to enhance the quality of the physical and academic infrastructure, in our campuses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) University Grants Commission (UGC) provides development grants to all eligible universities and colleges for recruitment of teaching staff, purchase of books, journals and equipment, improvement of faculty, construction of buildings and hostels etc. Financial assistance is also provided for improvement of teaching and research under special assistance programmes.